

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 12, 14, 16, 19, 20, 22 and 23 have been amended. The title has been amended. No new matter has been presented.

Claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 22 and 23 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-10, 12-20 and 22-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Rublee, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0043416. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 14, 22 and 23 have been amended to clarify the invention. According to these claims, an additional function list includes at least one additional function executable by the management server. After a user is authenticated, an additional function can be specified to be carried out on the input image data by the management server. The additional function is associated with a particular user and is stored in an additional function list.

Rublee is directed to a network-based scanning system where a scanned image is sent to an electronic e-mail address. The scanner appends an electronic mail address of the sender in the "from" field of the electronic message. Status messages can also be sent to the scanner's e-mail address (see abstract).

In the Action, the Examiner asserts that the e-mail address corresponds to the claimed process content. However, an e-mail address is not an "additional function" executable by the management server. Thus, since the so-called management server of Rublee merely sends the user's e-mail address to the scanner, Rublee does not teach or suggest the features of the independent claims. The other amendments made to the claims clarify the differences between the claimed invention and Rublee. Accordingly, applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rublee in view of White, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0120009. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

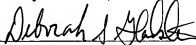
Claims 11 and 21 depend, at least indirectly, from claims 1 and 14. As noted above, Rublee fails to teach or suggest the features of the independent claims. White fails to overcome Rublee's deficiencies. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772033400.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Deborah S. Gladstein
Registration No.: 43,636
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 400
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 760-7753